

THE SOCIAL-SECURITY BILL

Mr. KNUTSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. KNUTSON. Mr. Speaker, the social-security bill will probably come before the House for consideration within a few days. Title I, the section having to do with old-age pensions, contemplates setting up a dual contributory system whereby the Government will match the State dollar for dollar up to \$15 per month for each pensioner.

After having given much study to this set-up I am firmly convinced that it would work a great injustice in a number of States that are bankrupt or nearly so. I attach herewith table no. 2, taken from the majority report on the social-security bill, which enumerates the States now having an old-age-pension system. It will be noted from this table that two of these States are in default in the payment of the pension.

In this connection I desire to call particular attention to the situation in North Dakota where a yearly pension calling for \$150 was settled in the sum of \$3.96 for the year 1934. No doubt there are other States in the same financial condition as North Dakota and West Virginia, and in such States the pension plan of the administration could not be made operative. Therefore, the plan is discriminatory and not workable.

I trust that the membership of this body will give this phase of the old-age-pension proposal of the administration most serious consideration before the measure is taken up for consideration by the House.

Operation of old-age-pension laws of the United States, 1934

State	Type of law	Number of pensioners	Number of eligible age, 1930	Percentage of pensioners to number of eligible age	Average pension	Yearly cost
Alaska.....	Mandatory.	446	3,437	11.1	\$20.82	\$95,705
Arizona.....	do.....	1,974	9,118	21.6	9.01	200,927
California.....	do.....	19,300	210,379	9.2	21.16	3,502,000
Colorado.....	do.....	8,705	61,787	14.1	8.59	172,481
Delaware.....	do.....	1,610	16,678	9.7	9.79	188,740
Hawaii.....	Optional	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Idaho.....	Mandatory.	1,275	22,310	5.7	8.85	114,521
Indiana.....	do.....	23,418	133,428	16.9	6.13	1,254,169
Iowa.....	do.....	3,000	184,239	1.6	13.50	475,500
Kentucky.....	Optional	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Maine.....	Mandatory.	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Maryland.....	Optional	141	92,072	.2	20.00	50,217
Massachusetts.....	Mandatory.	20,023	156,590	12.8	24.35	5,411,723
Michigan.....	do.....	2,660	148,853	1.8	9.59	305,096
Minnesota.....	Optional	2,655	94,401	2.8	13.20	420,538
Montana.....	do.....	1,781	14,377	12.4	7.28	155,525
Nebraska.....	Mandatory.	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Nevada.....	Optional	23	4,814	.5	15.00	3,320
New Hampshire.....	Mandatory.	1,423	25,714	5.5	19.06	298,722
New Jersey.....	do.....	10,560	112,594	9.4	12.72	1,375,693
New York.....	do.....	61,228	373,878	13.7	22.16	13,592,080
North Dakota.....	do.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Ohio.....	do.....	24,000	414,836	5.8	13.90	3,000,000
Oregon.....	do.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Pennsylvania.....	do.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Utah.....	do.....	930	22,665	4.1	8.56	95,599
Washington.....	do.....	2,230	101,503	2.2	(1)	(1)
West Virginia.....	Optional	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Wisconsin.....	do.....	1,060	112,112	1.8	16.75	395,707
Wyoming.....	Mandatory.	643	8,707	7.4	10.79	83,231
Total.....		180,003	2,330,390	7.7	16.48	31,192,492

1 No information available or not computed.

2 Not in operation.

3 Not yet in effect.

4 Not much being done due to lack of funds.

5 No pensions being paid now.

6 Administered by counties; no information available for State.

7 Law just being put into effect.

Source: Data collected by the Committee on Economic Security.

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. O'CONNOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules may have until midnight tonight to file a report.

Mr. MONAGHAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, may I ask the gentleman from New York what the nature of the rule under consideration is?

Mr. O'CONNOR. It relates to the social-security bill.

Mr. MONAGHAN. May I ask further what the nature of the rule is; that is, what the gentleman thinks it will be?

Mr. O'CONNOR. The Rules Committee has never considered it and is hearing the Ways and Means Committee this afternoon. Then the Rules Committee, with its accustomed deliberation, will arrive at the form of the rule.

Mr. MONAGHAN. I read in the newspapers that the committee has been conferring at length on it, and I should like to have some light on the subject.

Mr. O'CONNOR. I cannot predict what will happen.

Mr. TRUAX. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. O'CONNOR. I yield.

Mr. TRUAX. I hope the distinguished Chairman of the Rules Committee will not bring out a gag rule and attempt to force it down the throats of the Members.

Mr. MONAGHAN. Mr. Speaker, the social-security legislation is no doubt the most important legislation that we shall consider at this session of Congress.

The regular order was demanded.

Mr. MONAGHAN. I believe it should be considered under an open rule and without assurance to that effect I am constrained to object.